

today houses New York City's Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. In 1992, Lew Todd served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention as an early supporter of a promising candidate named Bill Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the enormous contributions to civic and political life made by Lew Todd, a true pioneer and civil rights activist in the finest traditions of our great republic.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE (NHC)

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the 75th anniversary of the National Housing Conference (NHC), an organization with over 900 members dedicated to forwarding the cause of affordable housing and community development.

Organized in 1931 by Mary Simkhovitch, a reformer and social worker, this pioneering advocacy group was the first non-partisan, independent coalition of its kind to include national housing leaders from both public and private sectors. NHC's early membership included an array of bankers, builders, civic leaders, realtors, organized labor, architects and residents from across the greater New York City region. Since its inception, the organization has worked to elevate public awareness on the plight of America's millions of working class families and its consequences on general welfare.

Early on, NHC was committed to making a difference in low-income communities across the country. The organization was instrumental in garnering support for the passage of key legislation, including the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, and the National Housing Act of 1934 that created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). After President Roosevelt stressed in his second inaugural address of 1937 that "one third of the nation is ill-fed, ill-clothed and ill-housed"—NHC sprang into action and mobilized national support to persuade Congress to pass the critical Housing Act of 1937.

After moving its headquarters from New York City to Washington, DC in 1945, NHC took on a new and tremendous challenge—"get rid of the slums, eliminate substandard housing." Working in conjunction with the labor movement to mobilize grassroots support, NHC's incredible efforts helped to secure the passage of the landmark Housing Act of 1949. This sweeping and ambitious housing legislation called for "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family."

During the 1950s and 1960s, NHC continued to draw upon its early successes to advocate for the needs of America's hardworking families and individuals. NHC played a major role in the passage of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 that established the Cabinet-level Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the 1968 Fair Housing

Act that prohibited discrimination based on race, religion, color, or national origin.

NHC's advocacy does not stop here. Over the past 35 years, the organization has never ceased to fight for a variety of legislative proposals to improve the landscape of the affordable housing industry. From Section 8 housing, to home ownership programs, and even low income tax credits—NHC continues to fight for the integrity of these programs, despite a constant battle for available federal resources.

In honor of the organization's 75th anniversary, an incredible milestone, NHC has rededicated itself to a central mission: Fulfilling the Dream of the 1949 Housing Act—"a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family."

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the National Housing Conference, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to commend this organization for its outstanding service and dedication to making affordable housing a reality for the millions of working class American families across the country.

IN HONOR OF AUGUSTINE "GUS" STANDARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Augustine "Gus" Standard, upon his retirement that follows nearly 30 years of outstanding service with the City of Cleveland.

In 1977, Mr. Standard joined the City of Cleveland workforce as Chief Deputy Clerk in the criminal division, before joining the Department of Utilities as a security specialist. While there, Mr. Standard safeguarded the utilities division from various acts of theft and sabotage. He was later promoted to collections manager with the Department of Community Development, where his insight, expertise and diligence reflected in his creation of a successful in-house system of loan collection. Within a short time, millions of dollars of outstanding loans were repaid to the Department.

Mr. Standard was later promoted to Supervisor of the Record Room, Division of Building and Housing. In that capacity, he established greatly needed internal control and systems to prepare and archive files and records. Since 1983, Mr. Standard has worked as a MA/E Coordinator in the Contract Administration Section of Administrative Services. His responsibilities included contract and budget preparation; contract compliance; program evaluation; and special report preparation for City Hall and HUD, just to name a few. Mr. Standard consistently went above and beyond the usual call of duty, and was always willing to assist others whenever needed. Moreover, Mr. Standard's enthusiasm, kind heart and concern for others framed his professional life—inspiring and motivating others to do their best by cultivating an atmosphere where a true sense of teamwork and friendship flourished.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude to Mr. Augustine "Gus" Standard, upon his retirement

from the City of Cleveland that follows nearly three decades of outstanding service and accomplishment. His dedication, expertise, leadership, and energy, focused on making the City run as efficiently as possible, has lifted all facets of operations at Cleveland City Hall, and most importantly, has raised the lives of countless colleagues and citizens into the light of friendship and unity. I wish Mr. Standard and his family an abundance of health, peace and happiness as his journey begins from here.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "EMPOWERMENT OF IRAQI WOMEN ACT OF 2006"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Representatives ZOE LOFGREN (D-CA), SUSAN DAVIS (D-CA), and CAROLYN MCCARTHY (D-NY), introduce the "Empowerment of Iraqi Women Act of 2006." This legislation would establish an Iraqi Women's Fund to help Iraqi women and girls in the areas of political, legal, and human rights, health care, education, training, security, and shelter, and it would authorize \$22,500,000 in each fiscal year 2007, 2008, and 2009 for this fund. The "Empowerment of Iraqi Women Act" would also provide that 15 percent of the aggregate amount of economic and humanitarian assistance authorized for Iraq in each fiscal year 2007, 2008, and 2009 shall be made available for assistance directly to Iraqi-led nongovernmental organizations (NGO) with demonstrated experience in delivering services. Moreover, of that 15 percent, not less than 5 percent shall be made available for Iraqi women-led organizations. The bill establishes requirements related to U.S. activities in Iraq including the inclusion of the perspectives and advice of Iraqi women's organizations in U.S. policymaking related to the governance of Iraq, promoting the achievement of 25 percent of the seats in the National Assembly, and encouraging the appointment of women to high-level positions within Iraqi Ministries. Finally, this legislation would place certain requirements on post-conflict reconstruction and development related to the partnering of U.S. organizations with Iraqi-led organizations and would require that the training of Iraqi military and police include the protection, rights, and needs of women.

It is vitally important that the equality and rights of Iraqi women are assured. I have met with several delegations of Iraqi women during my trips to Iraq and here in Washington. I am always inspired by their strength and courage to speak out in support of equality, even in the face of danger. While these women have hope, they understand that the future is very uncertain. There must be full participation and equal treatment under the law for women in Iraq. Every country that protects its women is a stronger country, and Iraq will be a stronger country if women are able to preserve their representation in the new Iraqi government.